

RUTGERS - THE STATE UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM
on
CIVIL DISORDERS:
Causes and Remedies

Discussion Agenda
Discussion Group 4 - EDUCATION

Prepared by

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The action proposed in the following recommendation is not perceived as solving the very complex problem of education in Newark. These problems are viewed as being directly related to malfunctioning in other social institutions in Newark, such as government, industry and business as well as education. The action proposed is one step to be taken among many others if the crisis which exists is to be resolved. Let it be emphasized further that the action proposed is untested as to its effectiveness in contributing to the resolution of crises in urban education.

It is recommended that Newark be divided into approximately 10 subsystems. The ten subsystems should be delineated according to geographical and sociological criteria by a committee established by the State Commissioner of Education and with the advice and support of the Newark Superintendent of Schools, the Newark Board of Education and appropriate persons from other large urban centers in the state. This committee should be in operation by June 1, 1968. The committee will establish the subsystems and arrange for their implementation, and evaluation.

Each subsystem will have three groups of persons involved in educational decisions. These will be the administrator of the sub-system and other professional educators and a board of education elected by members of the community, as defined by the boundaries of the subsystem. Each school in the subsystem is to have a principal. Assisting the principal will be an advisory board composed of persons in the area served by the school, and elected by the people in that area. The roles of these three groups, i.e. administrators and professional educators, boards of education, and advisory boards is to be clarified by the appointed committee with respect

to the authority and responsibility of each.

The Central Board of Education in Newark will remain in existence and will provide appropriate services to the local boards.

The first subsystem should be in operation by January 1, 1969. Four more subsystems should be in operation by September of 1969 with the remaining subsystems to be established by September, 1970.

The appointed committee should make provision for systematic ongoing evaluation of this action with reports to be submitted at designated intervals.

(NOTE: In addition to the recommendation which has been detailed above by Dr. Kievit, the Governor's Select Commission on Civil Disorder made the following recommendations affecting Education:)

1. The Newark Public School System is in a state of educational crisis. The crisis demands that the State take over the administration of the Newark public schools during the crisis.

2. The State school aid formula should be revised so that impacted school districts will have additional resources to deal with their educational problems.

3. Additional sources of revenue should be developed, such as a State guarantee of school bonds, additional state aid for school construction, or a state school building authority with the power to float revenue bonds, to assist school districts with an inadequate tax base to meet construction needs.

4. The construction of school buildings as integral parts of private buildings and commercial developments should be encouraged to prevent the loss of ratable land areas and to lower the per foot cost of school construction.

5. The governor should request the State Board of Education to undertake an immediate review of teacher certification regulations. A more flexible procedure is needed to develop an adequate supply of teaching personnel for urban schools.

6. "Street academies" should be set up in the summer to help get youngsters into college and to assist them in accomplishing their next educational step.